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| Council | Agenda Item 2(c) |
| 21 July 2011 | Brighton & Hove City Council |

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL

3.00pm 19 MAY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Wells (Chair), A Norman (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, Kitcat, Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K Norman, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West

PART ONE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 There were no declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

2. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

2.1 The Mayor welcomed everyone to the special meeting and confirmed that he had given permission for photographs to be taken during the meeting.

3. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY

3.1 The Mayor explained that Section 249(5) of the Local Government act 1972 required the Council to hold a Special Meeting to confer the title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council and/or the City.

3.2 The Mayor then called upon Councillor Mears to formally move the proposition to make Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi a Freewoman of the City.

3.3 Councillor Mears stated that as the Leader of the Council she was truly honoured to be able to propose that Aung San Suu Kyi be made an Honorary Freewoman in recognition of her continued representation of the people of Burma and call for democracy in her country. She felt that in striving for democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi demonstrated the

qualities that all those who had freedom and those that sought freedom held dearly and wish the people of the Brighton and Hove recognised and enjoyed. She hoped that in conferring this honour, it would help to highlight the need for change in Burma and provide an incentive for those involved in seeking to bring change to that country to continue with their endeavours. She therefore wished to move:

"That the honour and title of Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton and Hove be bestowed on Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her continued efforts to support the people of Burma and many people throughout the world striving to attain democracy, human rights and ethnic conciliation by peaceful means."

- 3.4 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the motion and stated she was extremely pleased to be able to support the motion. She felt that Aung San Suu Kyi was a truly inspirational person who optimised the concepts of equality and fairness which were shared throughout the city.
- 3.5 Councillor Randall stated that she was a beacon of democracy and had faced many personal hardships and persecution but had remained steadfast in her belief that democracy was achievable and the right way forward. He was honoured to have been able to sign the scroll and felt that the city should be honoured that she was accepting the award.
- 3.6 The Mayor noted that the motion had been moved and put it to the vote.
- 3.7 The motion was carried unanimously and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was duly conferred as an Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 3.8 The Mayor then invited Ms Anna Roberts of Burma UK to come forward and accept the scroll and to address the Council.
- 3.9 Ms Roberts thanked the Mayor and the Council for deciding to admit Aung San Suu Kyi as a Freewoman of the City and stated that she knew Suu Kyi would be aware of the award and was very honoured to receive it. She hoped that one day she would even be able to visit the city and thank the council in person. In the meantime such actions were important as they showed that the efforts to bring democracy to Burma were supported by others. It gave strength to those who were still imprisoned or facing persecution to continue with their endeavours to bring the freedoms enjoyed and taken for granted in the western world into their own country.
- 3.10 The Mayor thanked Ms Roberts and stated that the people of Burma had just made an army of new friends in Brighton and Hove.
- 3.11 The Mayor then called upon Councillor Mears to formally move the proposition to make Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal a Freeman of the City.
- 3.12 Councillor Mears stated that she was delighted to be able to move the motion for Marc Heal to be made an Honorary Freeman. He was a local boy who had studied in Brighton and regarded the city as his hometown and she knew his parents and family were very proud of him. She felt that it was significant to be recognising the acts of courage that he had shown in saving the lives of those defending democracy in

Afghanistan at this meeting, having already acknowledged the position of Aung San Suu Kyi. She believed that Marc's skills in flying his helicopter and leading his team were further examples of the qualities that this city supported and should be clearly held up for others to aspire to. She therefore wished to move:

"That the honour and title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove be bestowed on Marc Heal in recognition of his outstanding gallantry as the Captain of the Chinook helicopter Immediate Response Team in Afghanistan, for which the Queen awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The inspirational command of his crew and superior flying skills led to the successful extraction of 29 casualties and the saving of lives."

- 3.13 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the motion and stated how pleased she was to be able to support the motion. She felt that Marc was an inspirational leader who had shown unflinching courage under fire and successfully evacuated a number of casualties which had meant that lives were saved. As someone born in the city he was clearly a person for the residents of the city to be proud of.
- 3.14 Councillor Randall stated that he fully supported the motion and admired the way in which Marc had put the safety of others above his own and wished him every success in the future.
- 3.15 The Mayor noted that the motion had been moved and put it to the vote.
- 3.16 The motion was carried unanimously and Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal (DFC) was duly conferred as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 3.17 The Mayor then invited Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal to come forward to receive the scroll and to address the Council.
- 3.18 Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal thanked the Mayor and the council for what he felt was truly an honour and which made him feel very humble; especially in light of the award to Aung San Suu Kyi, who was someone he admired. He hoped that if he was able to share some of her qualities he would be able to influence matters and change things for the better. In the meantime he wished to thank the council again and to say that he would always refer to Brighton and Hove as his hometown.
- 3.19 The Mayor thanked Freeman Heal for his kind words and wished him well for his future career.

4. CLOSE OF MEETING

- 4.1 The Mayor thanked everyone attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of